AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims indicating the current status of each claim and including amendments currently entered as highlighted.

Claims 1-60 (canceled)

Claim 61. (new)   A method of accelerating receipt of data in a client-to-client network, wherein a client of the network operates a software program which implements a query and at least two other clients of the network each provide solely a portion of a response to the query, whereby the response to the query includes a plurality of response portions from the at least two other clients, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) intercepting the query and the response portions from the at least two other clients, wherein said intercepting is performed by an acceleration server operatively connected to the client-to-client network;

(b) aggregating by said acceleration server the response portions into the response from the at least two other clients; and

(c) transmitting at least a portion of the response from said acceleration server to the client.

Claim 62 (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said intercepting the query and the is performed by a plurality of acceleration servers operatively connected to the client-to-client network, and different response portions are intercepted by each acceleration server.

Claim 63 (new) The method of claim 61, wherein another acceleration server is a client of the client-to-client network, the method further comprising the step of:

(d) relaying solely a portion of the response from said another acceleration server to said acceleration server.

Claim 64 (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said acceleration server is further operatively connected to a server of a client-server network, whereby said intercepting reduces traffic through said server.

Claim 65 (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said intercepting is performed by redirecting

Claim 66 (new) The method of claim 65, wherein said redirecting is performed by a layer 4 switch.

Claim 67 (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said acceleration server is selectably either: in a local area network, in a server at a cable television provider junction, at a satellite relay link, or within an ADSL junction.

Claim 68 (new) The method of claim 61 wherein said query includes a request for data and the response includes said data.

Claim 69 (new) The method of claim 68, wherein said data is in a format selected from the group of file types consisting of MP3, DVid, MPEG-2, MPEG-1, M-JPEG, MPEG-4, ActiveMovie/Video for Windows (.avi), QuickTime(.mov), RealVideo(.rm and .ram), H263.1, HTML, Flash, Gif, Tif, mpeguide and exe.

Claim 70 (new) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of, prior to said transmitting:

> (d) analyzing the response portions based on at least one variable; and
> (e) storing the response portions based on said at least one variable.

Claim 71 (new) The method of claim 70, wherein said variable is selected from the group consisting of temporal information, ordinal information, frequency information, client information and identification information.

Claim 72 (new) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of, prior to said transmitting:

(d) analyzing a direction of the response portions in accordance with a cache policy, wherein said cache policy is selectably either unidirectional or bidirectional.

Claim 73 (new) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of, prior to said transmitting:

(d) checking availability of at least one other client of the at least two other clients prior to said intercepting said response portion from said at least one other said client.

Claim 74 (new) The method of claim 73, wherein said checking availability further includes checking availability of requested data stored on said at least one other client.

Claim 75 (new) An acceleration server, operatively connected to a client-to-client network wherein a client of the network operates a software program which implements a query and at least two other clients of the network each provide solely a portion of a response to the query, whereby the response to the query includes a plurality of response portions from said at least two other clients, the acceleration server comprising:

(a) an interception mechanism which intercepts the query and the response portions from the at least two other said clients;

(b) an aggregation mechanism which aggregates the response portions into the response from said at least two other clients; and

(c) a transmission mechanism which transmits at least a portion of the response from said acceleration server to said client.

Claim 76 (new) The acceleration server, according to claim 75, wherein said interception mechanism includes a redirecting device.

Claim 77 (new) The acceleration server, according to claim 75, further comprising

(d) a processing mechanism which checks availability of at least one other client of said at least two other clients, prior to intercepting the response portions from said at least one other said client, and analyzes the response portions based on at least one variable.

Claim 78 (new) The acceleration server, according to claim 77, wherein said at least one variable is selected from the group consisting of temporal information, ordinal information, frequency information, client information and identification information.

Claim 79 (new) The acceleration server, according to claim 77, further comprising:

(d) a storage mechanism which stores the query and the response portions.

Claim 80 (new) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for accelerating receipt of data in a client-to-client network, wherein a client of the network operates a software program which implements a query and at least two other clients of the network each provide solely a portion of a response to the query, wherein the response to the query includes a plurality of response portions from said at least two other clients, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) intercepting the query and the response portions from the at least two other said clients, wherein said intercepting is performed by an acceleration server operatively connected to the client-to-client network;

(b) aggregating by said acceleration server the response portions into the response from said at least two other clients; and

(c) transmitting at least a portion of the response from said acceleration server to said client.